



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THREE ALLEGED ALIEN SMUGGLERS INDICTED  
IN CONNECTION WITH NOVEMBER 8, 2004 BOAT INTERCEPTED  
BY COAST GUARD ENROUTE TO ST. CROIX**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a federal grand jury, sitting on St. Croix, returned an indictment on December 14, 2004, against Crawford Sabaroche, Anthony Ackie and Luis Felipe Rivas Pellerano charging them with one count each of Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens, Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain and Bringing in Illegal Aliens. Additionally, Sabaroche and Pellerano were separately charged with Re-Entry After Removal.

The indictment stems from the November 8, 2004 apprehension of approximately 23 illegal aliens aboard the motor vessel "NJORD" by officers of the United States Coast Guard. The vessel departed Dominica on November 5, 2004 and was intercepted by the Coast Guard on November 8, 2004 at about 6:30 a.m. that day. Officers of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office subsequently boarded the vessel and commenced an investigation. The nationality of the illegal aliens consisted of eighteen Haitians, three Santo Domingans, and two Dominicans..

The Indictment alleges that Crawford Sabaroche, Anthony Ackie and Luis Felipe Rivas Pellerano, were the operators of the vessel. The indictment further alleges that Sabaroche and Pellerano were previously deported from the United States.

Defendants Sabaroche, Ackie and Pellerano face a maximum statutory penalty of up to ten years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each of the counts relating to Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens, Bringing In Illegal Aliens, and Bringing In Illegal Aliens for Commercial Gain. Additionally, Sabaroche and Pellerano face a statutory penalty of up to two years for Reentry After Removal.

Attorney Jenkins thanked Captain Douglas P. Rudolph, Commander Coast Guard Sector- San Juan and Roberto G. Medina, Special Agent-in-Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), for their hard work in successfully investigating and bringing this case to fruition, without incident.

Attorney Jenkins emphasized that the Indictment is merely a formal charging document and that all the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.